

those of the Swedes. Its charm was entirely different, however; the Norwegians had an orderly entrance and exit. At the close of the competitive dances both groups united in doing the Tre Karls Polska and the Six Mens Reel.

For general participation the orchestra played American social dances as well as many Hambos, schottisches, waltzes and polkas. Of great interest was to watch the various couples do the hambos in their individual styles and interpretations.

#### CIURLIONIS A HIT IN NEW YORK

Three thousand people packed the Carnegie Hall in New York on Oct. 1st, to be thrilled by the spectacle presented by the noted Lithuanian Ciurlionis Ensemble. The presentation consisted of highly trained singers, agile dancers and strange instruments, such as Kankles, Ragas, Skudutis, etc. Some songs were dynamic, while others, nostalgic, which carried the listeners back to their once happy Lietuva. The dancers were nimble while the dance fiery and often breathtaking. The instrumental renditions had a bewitching sylvan quality which often gave one the illusion as if Pan, the nymph-god of the forests, was playing his pipes on the stage.

A part of the program was broadcast over station WQXR (New York Times), while the "Voice of America" likewise recorded the program for an overseas broadcast.

Mr. Alfonsas Mikulskis is the director of this outstanding group, while Liudas Sagys, who is himself as lithe as Nijinski, trains the dancers.

#### NEW DANCE BOOK.

SQUARE DANCES OF TODAY. by RICHARD KRAUS. (A.S. Barnes and Co., N.Y., \$2,00)

Altho there is hardly anything new in this new book, it is one of the best in its manner of compilation, notation and presentation. Richard Kraus merely compiled square dances in vogue at the present (as well as some old favorites) as presented by the various "name" callers in the country. In the "play party game" section, Lynn Rohrbaugh's material was liberally used; in fact, Mr. Kraus lays claim to none of the material. Nonetheless, of all the compilers of the square dances, the American play party games and mixers, his book will prove easy to decipher and useable, particularly in rural communities. What makes the book even more worthwhile is the inclusion of music which very few square dance books bother to include. The musical arrangements by Charles Leonhard is facile and interesting and the drawings by Carl Pfeifer are excellent. They are unmistakably clear and one gets the intended idea without deliberation. The book contains 55 dances, including mixers, a few rounds and a number of play party games. Old timers in the field might not find much material that will be new to them, but to new-comers this book should prove to be the No. 1-A "must" book for them.

VFB

#### BRENNERITES SPONSOR CABARET DANCE

The Brenner Branch of the Zionist Organization of which Al Spear is Social chairman, will sponsor a dance on December 16th at the McEnery Hall, 4039 W. Madison st. Jerry Sterns orchestra will furnish the music for the dancing and TV stars will entertain and the program will follow a cabaret pattern. The door price is \$1.50.



It is about this time each year that the club announces its new officers, so here they are: John Buracas, President—fine material that man; Vince Samaska is the new Vice-president — non better; Miss Dolores Srupsa was the wise choice for secretary. Due to a tie in votes she as two assistants to help her, namely, Miss Julia Buchunas and Fabian Dauzvardis. For treasures, well — Frank Zapolis.

I would like to express a word of thanks in behalf of all dancers to the past officers. They were fine leaders. Thanks to Bob Treonis, ex-pres; Julia Kaupas, ex-vice-pres; Eleanor Mellas, ex-sec'y and John Buracas, ex-treasurer.

#### Just Stuff.

Tom Mortell, a promising new dancer, left for the service of the country. We sure will miss him. He is the fourth man to leave from the group.

Ed Kaupas is attending the Michigan State College in East Lansing.

Helen Pius, Eleanor Mellas and Cecilia Puksmis spent the week-end of October 27 up in Canada singing in a concert with the Alice Stephens Choir.

Pete Dauzvardis became a godfather for the first time. The lucky youngster is George Srupsa, brother of Dolores.

Len Mickas—notice how he just talks and talks and talks—about dancing.

Chili Chilenskas and Julia Buchunas were seen at the Illinois-Wisconsin football game down Champaign way. Their comment: "We had a wonderful time".

#### Other Stuff.

On November 17 the group danced at the Sherman Hotel for the YWCA. Many other nationalities participated and a good time was had by all.

On November 18 we danced for the Marian Fathers at the Ashland Blvd. Auditorium. Our dances were well received.

On November 26 we combined forces with the VYTIS Chorus in the afternoon at the Lithuanian University Club in the evening putting on four shows at Museum of Science and Industry for their "Christmas Around The World" program, an annual affair.

#### In Memoriam.

.....Deep sorrow is expressed by the group to Miss Helen Pius and Julia Buchunas upon the death of their fathers. Requiem Masses for the intention of the departed were secured by the group.

—Pranas.



Bonnie Jean Parker

The organizer and former President of the Washington Folk Dance Federation, Almon Parker, and his pretty wife Jean, are the proud parents of a daughter, Bonnie Jean, born on October 7, 1950, in Seattle, Wash. Our congratulations to all of you.

#### MEXICO, LA LINDISIMA PAIS

V. F. Beliajus

(NOTE: The article on Mexico is being printed in three installments. 1) General Information in the December issue; 2) Churches, Shrines and Pyramids in the Jan.-February issue; 3) Fiestas and Miscellany in the March-April issue.)



THE SLEEPING LADY

Some 50 kilometers outside of Mexico City are the twin snow capped mountains of Popocatepel and Iztacihuatl (above). It is said that if one sees that Sleeping Lady he will not rest, but return to Mexico again.

#### Classes of "Turistas"

"Touristas" to Mexico can, in the main, be divided into three categories. In addition there are others, whose percentage is very small, which are composed of individuals specializing in certain fields. Their trips are outside of the three categories. Examples of such individuals are research people, archeologists, diplomats, writers, business heads and some who go for their health. Unlike Canada, Mexico is actually a foreign land to and for Americans. It is just like going to Europe, although without the need of crossing the ocean and at less expense. In fact, it is far more foreign and far more primitive than anything in Europe, and it also offers much which Asiatic countries have to offer. The thrill of going to a "real" foreign country is the exciting drawing card for the traveler to Mexico.

Regretfully, the majority of the travelers to Mexico, because of the strength of their number, are those belonging to category No 1. For the most part they are "border town" tourists. Thanks to them the night clubs, taverns, houses of prostitution and the cheap curio shops are doing a land-slide business. Tijuana, Ciudad Juarez, Nogales, Matamoros and Reynosa are typical of the "just across the border" towns. Others still thriving on "border town" business, even tho further inland, are: Monterrey, Saltillo, Chihuahua and, to a lesser extent, Ciudad Victoria. The first named towns, in appearance, often times, do not differ to much from any Southwestern town in the U. S. Often times they are but suburbs of the adjacent American town north of the border. The dress is the same and English is commonly spoken. The purpose of many of the "border town" tourists classified as "caliber No. 1" is to "let loose". Tourists of this class and natives have anything but the best opinion of each other and both are wrong. These towns do not represent Mexico, nor do these tourists represent Americans. Both think of each other as morally loose. The Mexicans

think that Americans are filthy with money and they don't know what to do with it (and often they don't): therefore, they just as well be the ones to clean them out.

The second category consists of Bona Fide tourists. To them, distance of travel depends entirely upon the time element and money on hand to spare for bare expenses and souvenirs. They might go to the border towns, perhaps further inland and even as far as Mexico City, Taxco or Pueblo. To them, every little bit that is different is exciting. They are thrilled with all incidents and occurrences. The market places, the enormous amount of souvenirs they have to offer and the fact that they can buy things themselves directly at the source is a thrill. They'll admire the churches, plazas, patios, architecture, the new trees and the distinct surroundings. They'll be thrilled and excited with everything and appreciative of everything, even of things which they can't understand or even if it goes against their own accustomed way of life.

The third category is the Acapulco set. They don't necessarily have to go to Acapulco. There are people of the second category who go to Acapulco just out of sheer curiosity to see what it is all about and they can't be classified as belonging to that coterie; and then again, there are others who might not get to Acapulco. They might go to Ensenada, Mexico City or even Jiquilpan,

Acapulco is the Riviera of Mexico and is located on But, nevertheless, can be classified as the Acapulco set. the Pacific coast in the state of Guerrero. Everything is beautiful and enchanting around there: natural and man made beauty vie, and it costs plenty. The Acapulco set has the "mezuman" and are often "big wheels" in business, politics and social life. They see Mexico through rose colored glasses. To them, too, everything is gorgeous and exciting: beautiful hotels with romantic patios, the likes of which is not to be seen in the U.S.; restaurants with atmosphere and a mess of waiters at your heels (and all want "baksheesh"); fancy night clubs where one (some of them) can let their "hair down" without the folks back home ever learning about it; and guides who will take you on well planned tours and show you some of the "Seven Wonders" of Mexico, of which Mexico can truly boast. Their contact with the true Mexican is as remote as, in comparison, was that of the potentate with an untouchable. Their food is protected and so are they from the pain of rubbing shoulders with the lowly peons or the native Amerindians. They need not know a word of Spanish as the hotel managers, their waiters and guides are often well educated, well polished in manners and know how to please. Their day consists of "either—and—or" rising late, eating leisurely. Taking in easily accessible sightseeing tours, commuting via plane (only 60 minutes) to Acapulco for a swim or to Mexico City for the theatre and/or night club. Returning late, rising late, etc. To some of them the peon and Ameridian is some sort of a sub-human who merits no tumble but something to be avoided as one would a plague.

#### Roads, Highways and Byways.

There are two good highways leading from the U.S. to Mexico City. One goes through Laredo, via Monterey, the other, a newer and a much better highway is from El Paso-Ciudad Juarez via Chihuahua. One could shortcut through Brownsville-Matamoros to Ciudad Victoria, not too good of a road but a kilometer saver. The first named, Pan American highway, will prove no hardships for the American tourist. It's a well established route